

personnel and support resources required to properly represent U.S. interests in the UPU. A look at the agenda of the April 1998 UPU Postal Operations Council—which included, inter alia, postal security, philately development, the direct mail advisory board, postal accounting, quality of service, and terminal dues sessions—underlines the fact that the USPS is the only U.S. entity capable of adequately representing U.S. interests with regard to the full range of UPU agenda items.

Finally, we note that the requirement in proposed Section 407 (a) raises serious constitutional concerns. The negotiation and conclusion of treaties and international agreements, including the content of such instruments, is a Constitutional responsibility vested solely in the President, and is therefore an area in which Congress may not intrude.

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Without resorting to new legislation, mechanisms exist to ensure that government and private sector interests are factored into any policies, or conventions on international mail services. State, Commerce, USTR and the Postal Service participate in an inter-agency process which can examine competing demands and make decisions based on maximum benefit to all parties, including private mail carriers.

USPS hosts meetings with representatives of the private sector to brief on UPU activities and get industry input for its policy formation (the most recent of these meetings was held on April 14, 1998) and State, Commerce, USTR and USPS participate in the interagency process when needed to discuss international mail issues.

SUMMARY

The Department of State believes the U.S. Postal Service is the most appropriate representative for the United States government in the Universal Postal Union, and it appears to us that sufficient mechanisms exist currently to ensure coordination of U.S. policy and the interests of other US government agencies and private industry under USPS leadership.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, June 22, 1998.

Hon. JERRY SOLOMON,

Chairman, Rules Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR JERRY: I am writing regarding the Treasury Postal Appropriations bill for FY99. The bill contains an amendment offered by Representative Northup that revises how international postal service negotiations are conducted.

I have strong concerns about this provision, and the assigning the USTR with the broad responsibility for "the formulation, coordination, and oversight of foreign policy related to international postal services . . .". The USTR is not responsible for the conduct of US foreign policy. Moreover, this provision would dramatically change the way in which postal issues are managed in international fora and raises questions as to the rules governing the Universal Postal Union. It is my understanding that the UPU Postal Operations Council requires that a representative be a qualified official of the Postal Administration. The governing body of the UPU Council of Administration requires the representative to be competent in postal matters. This raises the question as to whether the USTR has the capacity to manage this new portfolio.

I would urge the Rules Committee not to waive points of order with respect to this provision.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN,
Chairman.

COALITION IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMPETITION,

June 23, 1998.

To the Members of the Committee on Rules:

The members of the COALITION IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMPETITION, listed below, strongly urge the Committee on Rules *not* to waive points of order against the amendment on International Postal and adopted by the Committee on Appropriations, Arrangements offered by Rep. Ann Northup included in the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill under consideration today as well as any changes to the amendment Rep. Northup desires to make.

The amendment would place all international postal negotiations and representation under the U.S. Trade Representative rather than the Postal Service. The USTR has opposed this amendment, and we believe that passage could be very harmful to our international postal services and the business that use them.

Advertising Mail Marketing Association, Washington, DC.

American Postal Workers Union, Washington, DC.

Ballard Designs, Atlanta, GA.

L.L. Bean, Freeport, ME.

Current, Inc., Colorado Springs, CO.

Damark International, Inc., Minneapolis, MN.

The Direct Marketing Association, Washington, DC.

Fingerhut Companies, Inc., Minnetonka, MN.

Frontgate, Lebanon, OH.

Garnet Hill, Lebanon, NH.

Hammacher Schlemmer, Chicago, IL.

J.C. Penney Company, Plano, TX.

Land's End, Dodgeville, WI.

Magazine Publishers of America, Washington, DC.

Mail Order Association of America, Washington, DC.

National Association of Letter Carriers, Washington, DC.

National Association of Postal Supervisors, Alexandria, VA.

National Association of Postmasters of the United States, Alexandria, VA.

National League of Postmasters, Alexandria, VA.

National Retail Federation, Washington, DC.

National Rural Letter Carriers Association, Arlington, VA.

Parcel Shippers Association, Washington, DC.

Performance Data TransUnion Corporation, Chicago, IL.

Territory Ahead, Santa Barbara, CA.

TravelSmith, Novato, CA.

Whispering Pines, Fairfield, CT.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERRSON) announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this resolution will be postponed until later today.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GREEN (during consideration of H. Res. 489). Madam Speaker, on Thursday, June 18 and Friday, June 19, I was unavoidably detained in my district working on the House that Congress Built Project.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 242; "no" on rollcall 243; "no" on rollcall 244; "yes" on rollcall 245; "no" on rollcalls 246, 247, 248 and 249; and "yes" on rollcalls 250 and 251.

□ 1215

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4112, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 489 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 489

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4112) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 2(l)(6) of rule XI, clause 3 or 7 of rule XXI, or section 401 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or 6 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: page 10, line 1 through line 10. No amendment shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment maybe considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment. All points of order against amendments printed in the report are waived. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.